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FROM: Mitchell K. McCarthy, Registration No. 38,794

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Art Group 2652	571/273-8300	571/272-2600

RE: Application No. 09/894,668
In re application of: Srinivas Tadepalli, et al.
Assignee: Seagate Technology LLC
Dkt. No.: STL9760

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **SrinivasTadepalli and Cory B. Welscher**
Assignee: **SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY LLC**
Application No.: **09/894,668** Group No.: **2652**
Filed: **June 27, 2001** Examiner: **Craig Renner**
For: **DOWNSTREAM FINNED STRIPPER SHROUD AIRSTREAM CONDITIONING
APPARATUS FOR A DISC DRIVE**

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ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

**TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF
(PATENT APPLICATION-37 C.F.R. § 41.37)**

1. Transmitted herewith is the APPEAL BRIEF in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on October 26, 2005.
2. STATUS OF APPLICANT

This application is on behalf of other than a small entity.

3. FEE FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is:

other than a small entity \$500.00

Appeal Brief fee due \$500.00

12/23/2005 TL0111 00000047 09094660

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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a)

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Signature

Date: December 22, 2005Diana C. Anderson
Diana C. Anderson

(type or print name of person certifying)

4. EXTENSION OF TERM

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 apply.

Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

5. TOTAL FEE DUE

The total fee due is:

Appeal brief fee	\$500.00
TOTAL FEE DUE	\$500.00

6. FEE PAYMENT

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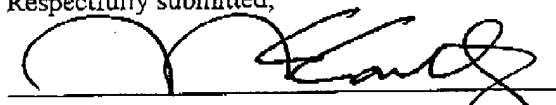
7. FEE DEFICIENCY

If any additional extension and/or fee is required, and if any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 06-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

12/22/2005



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In re application of: SrinivasTadepalli and Cory B. Welscher
Assignee: SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY LLC
Application No.: 09/894,668 Group No.: 2652
Filed: June 27, 2001 Examiner: Craig Renner
For: DOWNSTREAM FINNED STRIPPER SHROUD AIRSTREAM CONDITIONING
APPARATUS FOR A DISC DRIVE

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Date: December 22, 2005

Diana C. Anderson

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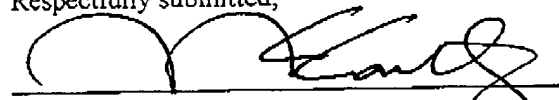
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7. FEE DEFICIENCY

If any additional extension and/or fee is required, and if any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 06-0540.

Date: 12/22/2005

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Srinivas Tadepalli and Cory B. Welscher
Assignee: SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY LLC
Application No.: 09/894,668
Filed: June 27, 2001
Group Art: 2652
Examiner: C. Renner
For: DOWNSTREAM FINNED STRIPPER SHROUD AIRSTREAM
CONDITIONING APPARATUS FOR A DISC DRIVE

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Sir:

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal that was filed in this case on October 26, 2005. The required fees, any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief, and the authority and time limits established by the Notice of Appeal are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a)

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This brief contains these items under the following headings, and in the order set forth below:

- I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST
- II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES
- III. STATUS OF CLAIMS
- IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS
- V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER
- VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL
- VII. ARGUMENT
- VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX
- IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX
- X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is the party named in the caption of this brief.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of the claims in this application is:

<u>Claim</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. (Previously presented)	Independent.
2. (Original)	Depends from claim 1.
3. (Original)	Depends from claim 1.
4. (Original)	Depends from claim 2.
5. (Canceled)	
6. (Canceled)	
7. (Canceled)	
8. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 1.
9. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 1.
10. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 1.
11. (Original)	Depends from claim 10.
12. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 1.

13. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 1.
14. (Original)	Depends from claim 1.
15. (Previously presented)	Independent.
16. (Original)	Depends from claim 15.
17. (Original)	Depends from claim 16.
18. (Canceled)	
19. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 15.
20. (Original)	Independent.
21. (Original)	Depends from claim 20.
22. (Original)	Depends from claim 21.
23. (Original)	Depends from claim 22.
24. (Previously presented)	Depends from claim 23.

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

Claims in the application: 1-4, 8-17, and 19-24

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS

1. Claims canceled: 5-7 and 18
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: none
3. Claims pending: 1-4, 8-17, and 19-24
4. Claims allowed: none
5. Claims rejected: 1-4, 8, 9, 12-17, and 19-24
6. Claims objected to: 10 and 11

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

Claims now on appeal: 1-4, 8, 9, 12-17, and 19-24

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant filed an after-final amendment on September 7, 2005. The after-final amendment was not entered according to the Advisory Action mailed September 26, 2005.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The embodiments of the present invention as recited by the language of independent claim 1 contemplate an airstream conditioning apparatus 138 in a data storage device 100 for attenuating the aerodynamic excitation of air currents on device components. (see para. [0002]; para. [0006]; and FIGS. 4 and 9-11) The data storage device has an enclosure 102, 104, 105 (see para. [0027]) supporting a rotating data storage disc 108 and an actuator 112 operatively interfacing the disc in a data transfer relationship.

The airstream conditioning apparatus includes an airstream stripper 140 that is supportable downstream of the actuator with respect to the direction of the air currents 111 produced by the rotating disc. The airstream conditioning apparatus also includes a frame 156 that is supportable by the enclosure. The frame forms a shroud upstream of the airstream stripper, defining a perimeter surface 158 that is substantially transverse to the data storage disc (see FIGS. 10, 11) and that intersects the airstream stripper. The shroud has a fin 160 defining planar surfaces 162, 164 extending from the perimeter surface, such that the fin is substantially coextensive with the data storage disc.

The embodiments of the present invention as recited by the language of the dependent claims of independent claim 1 contemplate the perimeter surface as tapering away from the disc edge in traversing a path away from the airstream stripper. (see FIG. 9 and para. [0042-0043]) The airstream stripper can have a vane 142 extending radially from an outer radial portion to an inner radial portion of the data storage disc. Where a disc stack is employed, the airstream stripper can have a plurality of the vanes extending between adjacent discs, as is shown in FIG. 5. Preferably, the vane(s) are disposed substantially transverse to a distal end of the actuator, as is shown in FIGS. 1-3. The airstream stripper can be moveable

between operative and retracted positions (see FIGS. 5, 6), with a retaining member biasing it to remain in the operative position. (see para. [0046]) The frame can also have a bias member 182 that is acted on by attaching the enclosure members together to secure the frame in place.

The embodiments of the present invention as recited by the language of independent claim 15 contemplate the disc drive 100 comprising the enclosure 102, 104, 105, the disc stack rotated by a motor 106, and the actuator 112 having a distal end moving a data transfer element 120 in the data transfer relationship with the data storage surface of the disc stack. The airstream conditioning apparatus supported by the enclosure has the airstream stripper 140 downstream of the actuator with respect to the direction 111 of air currents generated by the rotating disc stack. The airstream conditioning apparatus further has the frame 156 that is supportable by the enclosure. The frame includes the shroud defining the perimeter surface 158 disposed substantially transverse to the data storage disc and intersecting the airstream stripper. The shroud includes the fin 160 defining the planar surface extending from the perimeter surface and disposed substantially coextensive with the data storage disc 108.

The embodiments of the present invention as recited by the dependent claims of independent claim 15 contemplate the airstream stripper having the vane 142 extending substantially radially from the outer radial portion to the inner radial portion of the disc stack and adjacent the data storage surface. Preferably, the vane is disposed substantially transverse to the actuator distal end. The portion of the shroud upstream of the airstream stripper has the fin extending from the perimeter surface substantially parallel with the disc stack.

The embodiments of the present invention as recited by the language of independent

claim 20 contemplate the disc drive 100 having the base 102 supporting the spinning data storage disc 108 while it operatively interfaces with the actuator 112 in a data reading and writing relationship. Claim 20 also recites in means-plus-function language a *means for limiting the aerodynamic excitation* resulting from air currents generated by the spinning disc. For properly construing claim 20 under Section 112 paragraph 6, the disclosed structure performing this recited function is the airstream stripper in combination with the finned shroud.

The embodiments of the present invention as recited by the language of dependent claims of independent claim 20 contemplate the *means for limiting aerodynamic excitation* having the vane 142 extending radially from an outer radial portion to an inner radial portion of the disc. Preferably, the vane is disposed transversely to the distal end of the actuator. The *means for limiting aerodynamic excitation* can also include the shroud defining the perimeter surface 158 that intersects the airstream stripper. Preferably, the shroud defines the fin 160 extending from the perimeter surface and disposed in parallel relation with the disc.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 20-23 stand rejected as being anticipated by Westwood '997.
2. Claims 20-23 stand rejected as being anticipated by Hashizume '119.
3. Claims 1-4, 8-9, 13-15, and 19-24 stand rejected as being anticipated by Schirle '545.

VII. ARGUMENT

This Appeal turns on the fact that none of the cited references can reasonably be viewed as anticipating the airstream stripper in combination with the finned shroud as in the

present embodiments as claimed. In some instances the Examiner has erroneously based anticipatory rejections upon incorrect or incomplete means-plus-function construction analyses. In other instances the Examiner has erroneously based anticipatory rejections upon reading the airstream stripper feature of the rejected claims onto a load/unload ramp of the cited reference.

The Applicant attempted in an after-final Amendment to obviate the Examiner's newly-based final rejection, but that Amendment was not entered by the Examiner. The Examiner stated that the Amendment was not entered because it raised new issues. Applicant now traverses that assertion, because the Amendment served only to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the patentable subject matter in response to a final rejection based on new grounds from a new reference. However, Applicant now reiterates that the claims as finally rejected are patentably distinct over the art of record.

THE EXAMINER'S ANTICIPATORY REJECTION OF CLAIM 20 OVER WESTWOOD '997 IS CLEARLY ERRONEOUS BECAUSE WESTWOOD '997 DOES NOT DISCLOSE THE AIRSTREAM STRIPPER AND THE FINNED SHROUD AS IN THE PRESENT EMBODIMENTS AS CLAIMED

Westwood '997 cannot sustain a Section 102 rejection of claim 20 because it fails to identically disclose the *means for limiting the aerodynamic excitation* of the present embodiments as claimed.

The *means for limiting* element of claim 20 invokes 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, the Examiner is obliged to construe the means clause as covering the disclosed structure and equivalents thereof performing the identical function of the claimed embodiments. See *B. Braun Medical, Inc. v. Abbott Lab.*, 43 USPQ2d 1896, 1900 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Donaldson Co. Inc.*, 26 USPQ2d 1845 (Fed. Cir. 1994)(*en banc*); *In re Dossel*,

42 USPQ2d 1881 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *Supplemental Examination Guidelines for Determining the Applicability of 35 U.S.C. 112, Para. 6*, 65 FR 38510. A failure to do so is reversible error.

The Applicant has explicitly identified the function associated with the recited *means for limiting* as being laminarizing the fluid flow so as to attenuate the excitations that are imparted to the actuator and to the disc by the airstream currents produced by disc rotation. See, for example:

Turbulence can impart adverse vibrations, or aerodynamic excitation, to the discs (flutter) and/or to the actuator, particularly to the suspension members (buffeting). Turbulence can also be created by shedding vortices formed from the actuator wake as the airstream flows past the actuator, and also acting on the disc edges as the air currents are expelled from the disc stack. Further, wake excitation from the actuator increases disc vibration.
(specification para. [0006], emphasis added)

The disclosed structure performing this function generally is the airstream stripper in combination with the finned shroud. See, in relation to the airstream stripper, for example:

the vanes 142 reduce aerodynamic excitation effects of the air currents on the actuator 112. For example, the vanes 142 decrease the Reynolds shear stresses acting on the actuator 112 by decelerating the air current mean flow. Also, the vanes 142 act in the manner of a flow straightener device, substantially like a honeycomb device, to establish fully developed air current flow conditions, thereby suppressing the three-dimensional wake formed downstream of the actuator 112.
(specification para. [0035], emphasis added)

See also, in relation to the finned shroud, for example:

The expelled air currents, as indicated by the reference arrows in FIG. 11, are thus diverted from the disc 108 to reduce the effects of shedding vortices. This reduces

the aerodynamic excitation effects of the air currents on the discs 108.
(specification para. [0043], emphasis added)

Accordingly, the disclosed structure both decelerates the flow at the head and diverts the flow away from the disc edge. However, Westwood '997 is wholly silent regarding any structure capable of attenuating excitation acting on the head and disc, as in the present embodiments as claimed. In Westwood '997, for instance, the vane 64 does not attenuate aerodynamic excitation acting on the head; rather, it simply catches air to move an actuator latch. Particularly, the vane 64 is located too far away from the head to decelerate the flow surrounding the head, and as such it is thereby inherently incapable of the function of attenuating vibration in the head. Westwood '997 is furthermore wholly silent regarding the finned shroud for diverting the fluid flow away from the disc edge, and thereby attenuating vibration in the disc.

When the means element is properly construed it is clear that Westwood '997 does not disclose or suggest any structure capable of the identical function as the present embodiments as claimed. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to substantiate a *prima facie* case of anticipation.

The Applicant's position is that this rejection of claim 20 and the claims depending therefrom is erroneous as a matter of law and should be reversed.

THE EXAMINER'S ANTICIPATORY REJECTION OF CLAIM 20 OVER HASHIZUME '119 IS CLEARLY ERRONEOUS BECAUSE HASHIZUME '119 DOES NOT DISCLOSE THE FINNED SHROUD OF THE PRESENT EMBODIMENTS AS CLAIMED

Hashizume '119 cannot sustain a Section 102 rejection of claim 20 because it fails to identically disclose the *means for limiting the aerodynamic excitation* of the present embodiments as claimed. As discussed above, the disclosed structure associated with the

recited function requires the airstream stripper in combination with the finned shroud. Particularly, Hashizume '119 is wholly silent regarding the finned shroud upstream of the airstream stripper.

When the means element is properly construed it is clear that Hashizume '119 does not disclose or suggest any structure capable of the identical function as the present embodiments as claimed. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to substantiate a prima facie case of anticipation.

The Applicant's position is that this rejection of claim 20 and the claims depending therefrom is erroneous as a matter of law and should be reversed.

THE EXAMINER'S ANTICIPATORY REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 8-9, 13-15, AND 19-24 OVER SCHIRLE '545 IS CLEARLY ERRONEOUS BECAUSE SCHIRLE '545 DOES NOT DISCLOSE THE AIRSTREAM STRIPPER OF THE PRESENT EMBODIMENTS AS CLAIMED

Claim 1

Schirle '545 cannot sustain a Section 102 rejection because it fails to identically disclose all the features of claim 1 which include at least:

*An airstream conditioning apparatus...comprising an
airstream stripper supportable downstream of the
actuator...and...a shroud...intersecting the airstream
stripper....
(excerpt of amended claim 1, emphasis added)*

Schirle '545 is wholly silent regarding the recited *airstream stripper* feature. The Examiner's reading the recited *airstream stripper* onto the load/unload cams 33 of Schirle '545 is an unreasonably broad claim construction because it ignores both plain meaning and the explicit definition in the specification of the claim term. *In re Morris*, 43 USPQ2d 1753 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Particularly, an *airstream stripper* has common meaning to the skilled artisan, and it is explicitly defined in the specification as being a member extending over the data storage region of the disc (such as 142) in close proximity to the head, in order to decelerate the fluid flowing around the head while it is in the data storage region. (see, for example, para. [0035])

However, the cams 33 are used for loading/unloading the head to/from the disc after the head has moved out of the data storage region. That is, the load/unload ramps 33 do not even extend over the data storage region of the disc. If the cams 33 encroached the data storage region, which they do not, then they would lift the head away from the disc and thus adversely prevent the intended data transfer relationship between the head and the disc in the data storage region.

Because the load/unload cams 33 do not extend over the data storage region of the disc, they are inherently incapable of decelerating the fluid flow around the head when it is operably transferring data. In actuality, by protruding toward the disc edge the cams 33 create turbulence rather than attenuate it in relation to the head.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to substantiate a prima facie case of anticipation because Schirle '545 does not identically disclose all the features of the present embodiments as claimed by claim 1.

The Applicant's position is that this rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom is erroneous as a matter of law and should be reversed.

Claim 15

Schirle '545 cannot sustain a Section 102 rejection of claim 15 because it fails to identically disclose all the features which include at least the following:

A disc drive, comprising...an airstream conditioning apparatus supported by the enclosure comprising an airstream stripper downstream of the actuator....a shroud...intersecting the airstream stripper....
(excerpt of amended claim 15, emphasis added)

For the reasons discussed above, claim 15 is patentably distinct over Schirle '545 which does not disclose the recited *airstream stripper* feature; that is, the Examiner's reading the recited *airstream stripper* onto the load/unload cams 33 of Schirle '545 is an unreasonably broad claim construction. *In re Morris*.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to substantiate a prima facie case of anticipation because Schirle '545 does not identically disclose all the features of the present embodiments as claimed by claim 1.

The Applicant's position is that this rejection of claim 15 and the claims depending therefrom is erroneous as a matter of law and should be reversed.

Claim 20

Schirle '545 cannot sustain a Section 102 rejection of claim 20 because it fails to identically disclose the *means for limiting the aerodynamic excitation* of the present embodiments as claimed. As discussed above for the rejections over Westwood '997 and Hashizume '119, the disclosed structure associated with the recited function requires the airstream stripper in combination with the finned shroud. Also as discussed above, the load/unload cams 33 of Schirle '545 cannot reasonably be viewed as anticipating the airstream stripper of the present embodiments.

When the means element is properly construed it is clear that Schirle '545 does not disclose or suggest any structure capable of the identical function as the present embodiments

as claimed. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to substantiate a prima facie case of anticipation.

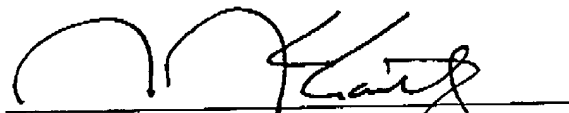
The Applicant's position is that this rejection of claim 20 and the claims depending therefrom is erroneous as a matter of law and should be reversed.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Applicant submits that the Examiner has not substantiated an anticipatory rejection for any of the independent claims. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the final rejection of the independent claims and the claims depending therefrom be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously presented) An airstream conditioning apparatus for a data storage device for attenuating the aerodynamic excitation of air currents on device components, the data storage device having an enclosure supporting a rotating data storage disc and an actuator operatively interfacing in a data transfer relationship, the apparatus comprising:
 - an airstream stripper supportable downstream of the actuator with respect to the direction of the air currents produced by the rotating disc; and
 - a frame supportable by the enclosure, the frame further comprising:
 - a shroud upstream of the airstream stripper defining a perimeter surface substantially transverse to the data storage disc outer edge and intersecting the airstream stripper, wherein the shroud comprises a fin defining a planar surface extending from a perimeter surface and substantially coextensive with the data storage disc.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the airstream stripper comprises a vane extending substantially radially from an outer radial portion to an inner radial portion of the data disc.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data storage device supports a plurality of the data storage discs stacked with spacers between adjacent data storage discs and commonly rotated as a disc stack, wherein the airstream stripper comprises a plurality of vanes extending substantially radially from an outer radial portion to an inner radial portion of the data storage discs of the disc stack and between adjacent data storage discs.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the vane is disposed substantially transverse to a distal end of the actuator.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data storage disc comprises opposing planar surfaces, each supporting a data storage surface, and wherein the fin comprises opposing planar surfaces substantially coextensive with the respective data storage surface.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fin comprises an edge substantially transverse to the planar surface and closely matingly parallel with the data disc outer edge.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame supports the airstream stripper in movement between an operative position and a retracted position.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the frame comprises a retaining member retaining the airstream stripper in the operative position.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a bias member compressingly engageable with the enclosure providing an attachment force on the frame within the enclosure.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the perimeter surface is separated from the data storage disc edge a first distance at a first end of the perimeter surface adjacent the airstream stripper, and wherein the perimeter surface is separated from the data disc edge a second distance at a second end of the perimeter surface, the second distance being greater than the first distance.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data storage device comprises a disc drive assembly.

15. (Previously presented) A disc drive, comprising:

an enclosure ;

a disc stack rotated by a motor ;

an actuator having a distal end moving a data transfer element in a data transfer relationship with a data storage surface of the disc stack; and

an airstream conditioning apparatus supported by the enclosure comprising:

an airstream stripper downstream of the actuator with respect to the direction of air currents generated by the rotating disc stack; and

a frame supportable by the enclosure, the frame further comprising:

a shroud defining a perimeter surface substantially transverse to the data storage disc outer edge and intersecting the airstream stripper, wherein the shroud comprises a fin defining a planar surface extending from a perimeter surface and substantially coextensive with the data storage disc.

16. (Original) The disc drive of claim 15 wherein the airstream stripper comprises a vane extending substantially radially from an outer radial portion to an inner radial portion of the disc stack and adjacent the data storage surface.

17. (Original) The disc drive of claim 16 wherein the vane is disposed substantially transverse to the actuator distal end.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The disc drive of claim 15 wherein the shroud upstream of the airstream strip and comprises a fin extending from the perimeter surface substantially parallel with the disc stack.

20 (Original) A disc drive, comprising:

a base supporting a spinning data storage disc operatively interfacing with an actuator in a data reading and writing relationship; and means for limiting the aerodynamic excitation resulting from air currents generated by the spinning disc.

21.(Original) The disc drive of claim 20 wherein the means for limiting aerodynamic excitation comprises an airstream stripper vane extending substantially radially from an outer radial portion to an inner radial portion of the disc downstream of the actuator and disc interface with respect to the direction of the air currents.

22. (Original) The disc drive of claim 21 wherein the vane is disposed substantially transverse to a distal end of the actuator.

23. (Original) The disc drive of claim 22 wherein the means for limiting aerodynamic excitation comprises a shroud defining a perimeter surface substantially transverse to the disc outer edge and intersecting the airstream stripper vane.

24. (Previously presented) The disc drive of claim 23 wherein the shroud is upstream of the airstream strip and comprises a fin extending from the perimeter surface substantially parallel with the disc.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There exist no relevant related proceedings concerning this Appeal before the Board.